AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 1 –26 and amend claims 28– 36, 38, 41 – 44, and 48 so that the claims set reads as follows:

1-26 (Canceled)

27 (Original): A pigment comprising a pigmentary base that has been treated with an organo-phosphoric acid compound having the formula:

$R'_n\text{-}P_{(n-2)}\ O_{4+[3(n-3)]}$

wherein n = 4 - 14; and each R' is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms or hydrogen and within any one molecule, any two or more R' groups may be the same provided that at least one of the R' groups is not hydrogen; and

wherein the organo-phosphoric acid compound is present in an amount from about 0.01 percent to about 5 percent by weight based on the weight of the pigmentary base.

28 (Currently amended): A pigment comprising a pigmentary base that has been treated with an ~~organo-phosphate acid~~ **organometaphosphate** compound having the formula:

$(R''PO_3)_m$

wherein m = 1 -14, and each R" is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms or hydrogen and within any one molecule, any two or more R" groups may be the same provided that at least one of the R" groups is not hydrogen; and

wherein the organometaphosphate compound is present in an amount from about 0.01 percent to about 5 percent by weight based on the weight of the pigmentary base.

29 (Currently amended) **The** ~~A~~ pigment according to claim **27,** wherein the pigmentary base is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, kaolin, talc, mica and calcium carbonate.

30 (Currently amended) **The** ~~A~~ pigment according to claim **28**, wherein the pigmentary base is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, kaolin, talc, mica and calcium carbonate.

31 (Currently amended) **The** ~~A~~ pigment according to claim **29**, wherein the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide.

32 (Currently amended) **The** ~~A~~ pigment according to claim **30**, wherein the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide.

33 (Currently amended) **The** ~~A~~ pigment according to claim **27**, wherein the pigmentary base is treated with a compound selected from the group consisting of polyalcohols, alkanolamines, aluminum oxide, silicon dioxide and zirconium oxide.

34 (Currently amended) **The** ~~A~~ pigment according to claim **28**, wherein the pigmentary base is treated with a compound selected from the group consisting of polyalcohols, alkanolamines, aluminum oxide, silicon dioxide and zirconium oxide.

35 (Currently amended) **The** ~~A~~ pigment according to claim **27**, wherein the pigmentary base is treated with trimethylolpropane or triethanolamine.

36 (Currently amended): **The** ~~A~~ pigment according to claim **28**, wherein the pigmentary base is treated with trimethylolpropane or triethanolamine.

37 (Original): A pigment comprising a pigmentary base that has been treated with a salt of the organo-phosphoric acid compound of claim **27.**

38 (Currently amended): A pigment comprising a pigmentary base that has been treated with a salt of the ~~organo-phosphate acid~~ **organometaphosphate** compound of claim **28.**

39 (Original): A polymer matrix comprised of a polymer and the pigment of claim **27**.

40 (Original): A polymer matrix comprised of a polymer and the pigment of claim **28**.

41 (Currently amended): **The** ~~A~~ polymer matrix according to claim **39**, wherein the polymer is polyethylene.

42 (Currently amended): **The** ~~A~~ polymer matrix according to claim **40**, wherein the polymer is polyethylene.

43 (Currently amended): **The** ~~A~~ polymer matrix according to claim **41**, wherein the amount of the pigment is from about 50 percent to about 85 percent by weight of the polymer matrix, based on the weight of the polymer matrix.

44 (Currently amended): **The** ~~A~~ polymer matrix according to claim **42**, wherein the amount of the pigment is from about 50 percent to about 85 percent by weight of the polymer matrix, based on the weight of the polymer matrix.

45 (Original): A method for preparing a pigment, comprising combining a pigmentary base and an organo-phosphoric acid compound, wherein the organo-phosphoric acid compound has the formula:

$$R'_n\text{-}P_{(n-2)}\,O_{4+[3(n-3)]}$$

wherein n = 4 - 14; and each R' is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms or hydrogen and within any one molecule, any two or more R' groups may be the same provided that at least one of the R' groups is not hydrogen; and

wherein the organo-phosphoric acid compound is present in an amount from about 0.01 percent to about 5 percent by weight of the pigmentary base, based on the weight of the pigmentary base.

46 (Original): A method for preparing a pigment comprising combining a pigmentary base with a salt of the organo-phosphoric acid compound of claim **45**.

47 (Original): A method for preparing a pigment, comprising combining a pigmentary base and an organometaphosphate compound, wherein the organometaphosphate compound has the formula:

$$(R''PO_3)_m$$

wherein m = 1 -14, and each R" is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms or hydrogen and within any one molecule, any two or more R" groups may be the same provided that at least one of the R" groups is not hydrogen; and

wherein the organometaphosphate compound is present in an amount from about 0.01 percent to about 5 percent by weight of the pigmentary base, based on the weight of the pigmentary base.

48 (Currently amended): A method for preparing a pigment comprising combining a pigmentary base with a salt of the organometaphosphate ~~acid~~ compound of claim **47.**